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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/556,342

12/19/2006

Soungbong Choi

9988.260.00

8596

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7590

11/18/2009

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EXAMINER

KO, JASON Y

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1792

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

11/18/2009

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/556,342	Applicant(s) CHOI, SOUNGBONG	
	Examiner JASON Y. KO	Art Unit 1792	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 August 2009.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 9-15 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 and 16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Applicant's Amendments

1. This Office Action is responsive to the amendment filed on 08/07/09. Claims 1-8 and 16 are pending. Claims 1, 4-8, and 16 have been amended.

Response to Arguments

2. The claim objection has been withdrawn in response to Applicant's amendments filed August 7, 2009.
3. The claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112 have been withdrawn in response to Applicant's amendments filed August 7, 2009.
4. The claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) and 35 U.S.C. 103(a), have been withdrawn in response to Applicant's amendments filed August 7, 2009.
5. Applicant's arguments are considered moot in light of the withdrawal of objections and rejections as described above.

Claim Rejections

6. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

7. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.
8. Claim 1 recites the limitation, "the laundry kind information" in line 7, which appears to lack sufficient antecedent basis.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

9. **Claims 1-8 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over GUZZI et al. (USPA 2001/0049846) in view of ALSA (EP 1,452,636).**
10. Regarding Claim 1, GUZZI et al. teaches a washing system comprising: an information tag fastened to laundry (RFID tag, [0036]), having laundry information stored therein, including a kind of laundry the tag is associated with (identifies clothing or information relating to item of clothing, [0036]); a laundry device (washing machine inherently accomplishes washing related operations), the laundry device having a control unit (user interface 28 has a computer system comprising a CPU, [0034], which is a control unit); a reader (ID device 40, [0036]); for receiving a signal from the information tag on the laundry, the signal containing the laundry information (the identification device may recognize the clothing via the RFID tag, [0036]); and a home server (director 25, Fig. 2 and [0036]) in communication with (operatively connected/communicating, Fig. 2 and [0036]) with the control unit of the laundry device

Art Unit: 1792

so as to supply various control signals, for receiving information obtained by the reader, retrieving washing information corresponding to the received laundry information (for example, the optimization module retrieves data, [0066]).

11. GUZZI et al. appears to fail to explicitly teach the setting of a washing control algorithm based on the retrieved information, and performing remote control of the laundry device (although the first step appears obvious or suggested - the optimization module retrieves data which is then analyzed, see [0066]).

12. ALSA teaches a washing system with a similar information transferring algorithm to GUZZI et al. ALSA also teaches that the machine (obviously including a control unit) be able to adjust itself based on the sensed laundry information, and to modify a selected program based on the sensed information (See [0042]-[0043]). It would further be obvious to have the control unit actually performed remote control of the laundry device to reduce human involvement and for a user's convenience.

13. Thus, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the washing system as taught by GUZZI et al. and modify it so that the control unit can set an algorithm and to perform some sort of remote control or a wash with the laundry device to reduce user involvement.

14. Claims 2-3 are considered unpatentable over GUZZI et al. in view of ALSA, because GUZZI et al. teaches that the reader can be integrated into the washing machine or separate from the washing machine. See [0035]. More specifically, GUZZI et al. teaches the system 20 comprising an identification device 40 ([0032]) to be integrated or separate from the washing machine.

Art Unit: 1792

15. Claim 4 is considered unpatentable over GUZZI et al. in view of ALSA, because GUZZI et al. teaches the reader (ID device 40, Fig. 2) to be connected (indirectly through director 25, Fig. 2) to the control unit (user interface 28 which includes a CPU, Fig. 2). GUZZI et al. in view of ALSA fails to explicitly teach that the reader and control units would be able to transmit and receive data from each other. However, it would be obvious that these components would transmit data because they are indirectly connected to each other via the director (25, Fig. 2) and both components transfer data to the director.

16. Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use the washing system as taught by GUZZI et al. in view of ALSA and have the reader and control unit operatively connected to be able to transmit data from each other, because it is well known, expected, and obvious in view of the control module structure and for performing the intended purpose of this structure.

17. Claim 5 is considered unpatentable over GUZZI et al. in view of ALSA, because GUZZI et al. teaches the reader (ID device 40, Fig. 2) to be connected (indirectly through director 25, Fig. 2) to the home server (director 25, Fig. 2). These components are operatively connected and would be expected to carry out the functional limitation of transmitting or receiving information from each other.

18. Claim 6 is considered unpatentable over GUZZI et al. in view of ALSA, because GUZZI et al. teaches the home server (director 25 including data store 34, Fig. 2) to have washing information (including executable instructions for determining the amount and type of laundry compositions in the detergent dispenser, See [0041]-[0042]), and

Art Unit: 1792

the information tag on the laundry has information stored therein (information related to the clothing may be directly stored on the tag, [0036]).

19. Claim 7 is considered unpatentable over GUZZI et al. in view of ALSA, because GUZZI et al. teaches the home server (director) to have information on washing laundry having identification codes (ID tag 56 transmits a serial number to the ID device, which then passes the number to the director, [0073] and thus the director has the information) and teaches the information tag on the laundry to have an identification code (serial number, [0073]).

20. Claim 8 is directed to washing information including at least one of: preferable operation time period for respective cycles, preferable operation temperatures for respective cycles, or preferable water levels for respective cycles for the laundry, which GUZZI et al. in view of ALSA fails to teach explicitly. However, GUZZI et al. teaches the determination of optimized operating conditions via the director and optimization module. See [0061] and [0073].

21. Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use the washing system as taught by GUZZI et al. in view of ALSA and include information on preferable operating conditions because GUZZI et al. teaches the determination of optimized operating conditions for improved cleaning.

22. Claim 16 rejected as being unpatentable over GUZZI et al. in view of ALSA under an analogous rejection to Claim 8, with the exception that Claim 16 depends on Claim 7 instead of Claim 6.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JASON Y. KO whose telephone number is 571-270-7451. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday; 9:30am-7:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, MICHAEL BARR can be reached on 571-272-1414. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 1792

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/JYK/
Jason Y. Ko
Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1792
16 November 2009

/Michael Barr/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art
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